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Docket No. MA-702D2
Serial No. 09/977,653Remarks

Further to the Response filed on February 3, 2004, the specification is amended as suggested by the examiner. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment.

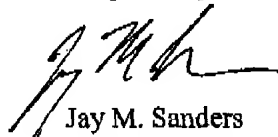
The applicants wish to thank the examiner for indicating that claims 1, 5, 8-10, 14, 16, 17, 19, 22, and 23 are allowable if paragraph 97 of the specification is amended per the examiner's suggestions.

The applicants believe that this application is in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited.

The Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR §§1.16 and 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account 19-0065.

The applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any of this response, or if the Examiner believes a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,



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